

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

July 19, 2010 – 7:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Present: Carl Ford, Chairman
Chad Mitchell, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Tina Hall, Member

Absent: Raymond Coltrain, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Ford convened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Hall provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2010, June 14, 2010, June 21, 2010 and July 6, 2010 Commission Meetings passed unanimously (4-0).

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell moved to add a discussion regarding the loss of lottery funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed unanimously (4-0).

Chairman Ford added the issue as agenda item #6a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously (4-0).

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barber requested to pull Consent Agenda Item C for discussion.

Chairman Ford moved the issue to agenda item #6b.

Commissioner Barber moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously (4-0).

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

Consider Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Proclamation for Read to Your Child Days
- B. Amendment to Lease for Probation Office Space
- C. Board of Elections to Apply for One-Stop Site Grant (moved to agenda item #6b)
- D. Set Public Hearing for August 2, 2010 to Consider Investment Grant Request for "Project Nomad"
- E. Set Public Hearing for August 2, 2010 for CUP 03-10
- F. Resolution for 2010 Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan

2. RECOGNITION OF RTS EXPRESS DRIVER ERNEST SHARPE

Chairman Ford said the Commissioners wished to provide special recognition of MV Transit Service employee, Ernest Sharpe, for his heroic and lifesaving action on June 17, 2010. Chairman Ford said that Mr. Sharpe was driving past a home in Landis and sighted a man laying half in the doorway of his home. Mr. Sharpe called in the situation and went to provide aid. Chairman Ford said if it were not for Mr. Sharpe's actions, the man would have probably succumbed to the heat.

Commissioner Barber reiterated the Chairman's comments and said the Board's gratitude was very sincere.

Chairman Ford called Mr. Sharpe forward to present him with a certificate honoring his actions. A round of applause followed the presentation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Ford opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. The following individuals came forward:

- James Greene expressed his opinion regarding the majority voting of the Board and the County's revenue stream. Mr. Greene said it was the Board's responsibility to manage the assets and revenues of the County. Mr. Greene said since February 2009, the Board had ignored \$976,000 of assets by either declining or discouraging possible opportunities for

income. Mr. Greene asked the Board to become better stewards of assets in the future.

- Revered Fleming Otey discussed the need for housing for veterans when they leave hospitals. Reverend Otey said the number of veterans needing assistance was increasing due to the number of current wars. Reverend Otey asked the Board to give the issue consideration during the upcoming presentation.
- Reverend Robert Freeman spoke in support of the project for transitional housing for homeless veterans.
- Phyllis Sides discussed Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and said \$9.6 million in alcohol was sold last year in Rowan County alone. Ms. Sides said a sitting commissioner had been brave enough to ask questions, which Ms. Sides felt caused the ABC profits to increase. Ms. Sides said the Commissioner should be commended. Ms. Sides felt it was a shame to spend liquor money to support the schools.
- Jim Sides said he attended the Senate Finance Committee Meeting in Raleigh on July 7, 2010 where House Bill 1717 was considered. The Bill was to modernize the state's ABC system. Mr. Sides said a last-minute local amendment was added to the bill by Senator Fletcher Hartsell, who does not represent Rowan County. Mr. Sides said the bill was an effort to change the makeup of the local ABC Board. Mr. Sides said a sitting commissioner was given an opportunity to speak regarding the local amendment to the bill. Mr. Sides said he was appalled when the matter came up on the senate floor and the sitting commissioner had been called a liar by a senator. Mr. Sides said the senator had spoken with 2 commissioners, who had stated the other commissioner was not in Raleigh representing them. Mr. Sides said the commissioner had attended the meeting representing the public of Rowan County.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Ford closed the Public Comment Period.

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SNIA 01-10 PERMIT APPLICATION

Planning and Development Director Ed Muire explained that a Special Non-Residential Intensity Allocation (SNIA) request for consideration had been submitted by Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. for property zoned Rural Agricultural and located at 3500 NC 801 Highway.

Mr. Muire said the Board had the discretion to grant the additional square footage requested, which was 36%.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve SNIA 01-10 passed unanimously (4-0).

5. SELECTION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR 2010 NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chairman Ford asked if any board members would like to serve as the voting delegate and represent Rowan County at the upcoming North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference.

Commissioner Mitchell said if no one else wished to attend, he would represent the Board.

Commissioner Hall nominated Commissioner Mitchell. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously (4-0).

6. CONSIDER REQUEST FOR VETERANS HOUSING PROJECT

Scott Redinger of Scott Redinger, Inc. said he was a housing consultant working with RHA Health Services (RHA) to provide transitional housing for veterans.

Mr. Redinger introduced Hattie Johnson with the W.G (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center (VA) and Scott Little, Vice-President for housing of RHA.

Ms. Johnson said she was the Coordinator for the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program at the VA. Ms. Johnson said the VA had identified the need for transitional and permanent housing for veterans.

Mr. Little said RHA was a large, non-profit with a strong background in mental health, substance abuse and creating low/moderate senior housing. Mr. Little said RHA had discussed the lack of veteran housing with veteran hospitals across the state and the impacts the lack of housing had on the ability for medical care and psychiatric services to be effective.

Mr. Little said RHA offered services for individuals with disabilities and mental health needs. Mr. Little said RHA had been around since 1987 and had a significant presence in Rowan County.

Mr. Little said RHA was beginning a project in Wilmington, NC which would be an eight (8) unit apartment complex for people with severe and persistent mental illness. Mr. Little discussed the services RHA provided which included vocational support, pre-vocational training, job placement, job coaching, and education and day program services.

Mr. Redinger reported that the Salisbury VA had seen 800 homeless veterans last year that had no place to go when they left the hospital. Mr. Redinger used a power point presentation to show the proposed layout for a twenty-four (24) unit group home. Mr. Redinger said the project, Liberty Square, was located behind the Salisbury Mall and received rezoning approval by Salisbury City Council. The project was proposed to be a partnership between a private developer, the VA, and local governments.

Mr. Redinger asked the Board to consider funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the project. Mr. Redinger said a grant was being applied for through the VA that would fund up to 65% of the development's cost. Mr. Redinger said the remaining 35% would be raised from the community, foundations and other resources.

Mr. Redinger said the funding through the VA for the 65% required all other commitments for funding to be "lined up". Mr. Redinger said that meant all other funding commitments were needed by March 2011. Mr. Redinger said once the application for funds was submitted, it would take the VA until July or August to review the application and determine eligibility.

Mr. Redinger said that while a commitment was needed, funds would not be needed until 2013. Mr. Redinger provided a timeline for submitting a second application, funding approval, selection of an architect and construction completion. Mr. Redinger suggested the Board could set aside funds from the 2011, 2012, 2013 fiscal year budgets to pay for the County's commitment. Mr. Redinger said the Federal Home Loan Bank would like to see a commitment by August 6, 2010 for funding for 20% of the project. Mr. Redinger expressed hope that the Board could provide a letter of commitment by August 6, 2010. Mr. Redinger said such a commitment would strengthen the application and help secure the additional funds.

Mr. Redinger asked Ms. Johnson to recognize the other VA members in attendance. Ms. Johnson also recognized Mr. Dawson, the Associate Medical Center Director. All the veterans in attendance stood to be recognized.

Chairman Ford expressed his appreciation for veterans and their service.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if HOME funds could be used. Mr. Page said he would try to get the answer and that he understood the City of Salisbury was also looking into that option.

Mr. Redinger said federal funds could be used to match VA funds and would count towards the 65%. Mr. Redinger said 35% would still have to be raised.

Commissioner Barber said the information provided would develop twenty-four (24) units and asked if there was room for expansion. Mr. Redinger said the original proposal was for twenty-four (24) units; which would be manageable at one (1) location. Mr. Redinger said it was possible that other locations could be identified in Salisbury in the future.

Commissioner Barber inquired if there was any possibility some of the property the County had declared as surplus would be desirable for the project.

Mr. Redinger said surplus property would a wonderful option. Mr. Redinger said the Federal Home Loan Bank would grant extra points for the surplus property. Mr. Redinger said RHA would have \$75,000 invested in the project before it applied for funding in hopes the application would be approved.

Commissioner Hall expressed appreciation for the presentation as well as to veterans for their service to the country. Commissioner Hall said the project sounded worthwhile; however, there would be additional information needed.

Mr. Redinger said he would send the budget for the process for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Hall inquired if the funding would be ongoing and Mr. Redinger said no.

Commissioner Hall asked if other counties across the state had given funds for similar projects in their areas.

Mr. Redinger said this proposed project was the first endeavor for RHA and VA housing working together.

Mr. Little said he was working with the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County had committed \$325,000. The City of Wilmington committed \$175,000.

Commissioner Hall said the state had just withdrawn a substantial amount of funding away from the County and that she was concerned with committing future funds when the Board could not predict the economy. Commissioner Hall said it was disconcerting to make a decision without knowing a great deal about the project.

Mr. Redinger said he understood the turnaround time was short and that it would be okay if the Board did not make a decision by August 6. Mr. Redinger apologized if he appeared to be pushing the Board into making a decision as that was not the intent.

Commissioner Hall said any other details that could be provided about this project and other projects across the state would be helpful.

Chairman Ford said he appreciated veterans; however, the information was just received today and therefore he could not vote on the issue tonight. Chairman Ford said the City of Salisbury had pledged support only at this time. Mr. Redinger said RHA was making a presentation to the City the following day for financial support.

Chairman Ford said he heard the City of Salisbury was considering \$150,000. Chairman Ford said several veterans had contacted him and expressed

understanding if the Board could not support the project due to the tight budget the county was facing.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to bring the issue up at the August 2, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. Redinger thanked the Board for the time and consideration and said he would get with the County Manager to provide the budget and to review surplus property options.

Commissioner Mitchell asked the County Manager to look into the possibility of using HOME program funds and Mr. Page said he would have answers at the next meeting.

ADDITIONS

6a. Discussion Regarding the Loss of Lottery Funds

Commissioner Mitchell said he was asking for either a motion or consensus to ask the County Manager to look at the budget shortfall in regards to the state cutting the County's lottery funds.

Commissioner Barber said he supported the request.

Chairman Ford asked if the County could make up the loss or if more cuts would have to be made.

County Manager Gary Page said the loss was \$900,000 and that he had a list of items the Board could consider for further budget cuts. Mr. Page said the Board could decide if it wanted to make the cuts now or wait until January when revenue streams would be better known.

In response to a query from Commissioner Hall, Mr. Page said he envisioned things would be tighter for non-profits for the next 12 months due to the economy. Mr. Page said the non-profits may request additional funds from the County; however, the Board was not obligated to provide them. Mr. Page said the new one-quarter cent sales tax would fund the new radio equipment and he added that the County must find a new place to house the Telecommunications Center. Mr. Page said another issue on the horizon was a central office for Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Page about his projection for a central office and Mr. Page said the issue had not gone away and that he would not be surprised if RSS did not come back to the Board because the perceived need was still there. Mr. Page said if the Board used funds that were "cut" on new projects, the Board would be right back where it started from. Mr. Page said he would provide the Board with a list of areas to be considered for cuts.

By consensus, the Board agreed for the County Manager to provide a list of budget items that could be considered as potential cuts.

6b. Board of Elections to Apply for One-Stop Site Grant

Commissioner Barber read the memorandum in the agenda packets from Board of Elections Director, Nancy Evans. Commissioner Barber then moved approval of the request.

Commissioner Barber said he wanted to discuss the issue so the Board could consider instructing the County Manager to speak with Ms. Evans as to the possibility of pursuing another grant to establish a one-stop site for the western area of county.

Commissioner Mitchell pointed out that site #4 was listed as the Cleveland Town Hall for early site voting. Commissioner Mitchell said he was under the assumption that site #4 would be funded if the grant was received.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Barber said he wished to move approval of the request and he asked that the County Manager obtain clarification of the information in the agenda packet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed unanimously (4-0).

7. REPORTS

The following reports were submitted for the Board's consideration:

- (a) County Manager's Monthly Activity Report

Commissioner Barber moved to accept the reports as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously (4-0).

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Finance - To budget an increase in allocation from the DJJDP. The County received new funds for Community-Based Youth Gang Prevention-\$160,993
- Finance – To budget fiscal year 2011 Homeland Security Grants for training - \$9,901
- Health – Heart disease and stroke prevention funding - \$700
- Health – Health Link Program from Blanche & Julian Robertson Foundation for fiscal year 2010-11 - \$25,000
- Finance – Budget fiscal year 2010 Justice Assistance Grant to pay for software and in-car cameras - \$14,555
- Sheriff – Recognize funds received from fiscal year 2009 Local Justice Assistance Grant - \$12,793
- Finance – Increase Duke Help Grant for fiscal year 2011 - \$100,000

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of the budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously (4-0).

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS
ADULT CARE HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sharon Hoffman Hampton submitted an application for reappointment. The term was for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2013.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Sharon Hoffman Hampton and the nomination passed unanimously (4-0).

CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Stacy Burns submitted an application for consideration to serve as a Private Sector Representative. The term would be for one (1) year beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Stacy Burns and the nomination passed unanimously (4-0).

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC)

The JCPC requested the reappointment of Lisa Kraft as an At Large member. In order for Ms. Kraft to be reappointed, the Board would need to waive the term limits set in the Resolution adopted September 8, 2009. The term would be for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2012.

Commissioner Mitchell asked when Ms. Kraft's term expired. Chairman Ford said the new term would begin July 1, 2010.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the vacancy had been posted and Chairman Ford said yes.

Chairman Ford said there were two (2) boards requesting term limits be waived and stated more volunteers were needed. Chairman Ford said he did not have anything against any of the applicants; however, more volunteers were needed.

Commissioner Hall said Ms. Kraft had been an active member with good support from the JCPC and that she was well respected.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to waive the term limits for Lisa Kraft. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and carried unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Lisa Kraft for reappointment and the nomination passed unanimously (4-0).

LOCKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONER

The Locke VFD requested the appointment of one (1) Fire Commissioner and submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Ronald Goodnight
- John Miller, Jr.

The term would be for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2012.

Commissioner Barber nominated Ronald Goodnight and the nomination carried unanimously (4-0).

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Manie Richardson submitted an application for reappointment. In order for Ms. Richardson to be reappointed, the Board would need to waive the term limits set in the Resolution adopted September 8, 2009. The term would be for three (3) years beginning August 1, 2010 and expiring July 31, 2013.

Mary Ann Johnson and Jonette Powell have completed their allowable number of terms. Marguerite Blizzard has submitted an application for consideration. The term would be for three (3) years beginning August 1, 2010 and expiring July 31, 2013.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to waive the term limits for Manie Richardson and the motion and passed unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Manie Richardson (reappointment) and Marguerite Blizzard. The nomination passed unanimously (4-0).

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Jeff Hall has completed his allowable number of terms as a Sites/Attractions representative. Gretchen Witt has submitted an application to fill this vacancy. The term would be for two (2) years beginning August 1, 2010 and expiring July 31, 2012.

Commissioner Barber nominated Gretchen Witt and the nomination carried unanimously (4-0).

Michelle Patterson has submitted an application for reappointment as a Sites/Attractions representative. The term would be for two (2) years beginning August 1, 2010 and expiring July 31, 2012.

Commissioner Barber nominated Michelle Patterson for reappointment and the nomination passed unanimously (4-0).

ROWAN TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTS)

Elizabeth Batson (PBH) has submitted an application to serve as a mental health representative. The term would be for one (1) year beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Elizabeth Batson and the nomination carried unanimously (4-0).

The RTS Advisory Committee submitted bylaws for the Board's approval. The Commissioners delayed approval of the bylaws on June 21, 2010 in order to receive additional information regarding changes to Medicaid Transportation. See attached information from Sandra Wilkes, Social Services Director.

Chairman Ford said the Board had previously seen the bylaws and the additional information that had been requested by Commissioner Mitchell had been received.

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of the bylaws. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 8:17 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board/Assistant to the County Manager